Unit .26

Session .04

Jesus Is Arrested

Scripture

Mark 14:32-36, 43-49,53,60-64

32 Then they came to a place named Gethsemane, and he told his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." **33** He took Peter, James, and John with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. **34** He said to them, "I am deeply grieved to the point of death. Remain here and stay awake." **35** He went a little farther, fell to the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. **36** And he said, "*Abba*, Father! All things are possible for you. Take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, not what I will, but what you will." … **43** While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, suddenly arrived. With him was a mob, with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. **44** His betrayer had given them a signal. "The one I kiss," he said, "he's the one; arrest him and take him away under guard." **45** So when he came, immediately he went up to Jesus and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. **46** They took hold of him and arrested him. **47** One of those who stood by drew his sword, struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his ear. **48** Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs, as if I were a criminal, to capture me? **49** Every day I was among you, teaching in the temple, and you didn't arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled." … **53** They led Jesus away to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes assembled. … **60** Then the high priest stood up before them all and questioned Jesus, "Don't you have an answer to what these men are testifying against you?" **61** But he kept silent and did not answer. Again the high priest questioned him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" **62** "I am," said Jesus, "and you will see the **Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming with the clouds of heaven**." **63** Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "Why do we still need witnesses? **64** You have heard the blasphemy. What is your decision?" They all condemned him as deserving death.

Intro Options

Main Point:
Jesus was sent by the Father to face judgment for our sins.

Option 1

The ELL (English Language Learners) club has reached out to your student group for help. Their students are having trouble understanding the English words *affirmation* and *rebellion*. They've asked your students to come help clarify these words (especially how they are opposites) to the ELL learners.

Since ELL learners, by definition, have a limited vocabulary, your students should come up with nonverbal explanations: skits, drawings, depictions, or Dr. Seuss-level rhymes. You can have students work in small groups or alone; you could also split your group in two, with one group explaining affirmation and another group explaining rebellion. Let them prepare and then show what they come up with.

Tell them that in today's lesson, we'll see how Jesus affirms several key truths during His arrest. His affirmation of the Father's plan is a contrast to Adam's rebellion (and ours) against the Father's will. By the Spirit's grace, we'll seek to imitate Jesus' affirmation instead of Adam's rebellion.

Option 2

Give your students several sheets of paper. They are to turn these sheets into pamphlets to be made available in hospitals, counselors' offices, hospices, waiting rooms, and other areas where people might be experiencing difficulty. The title of the pamphlet should be, "Comforting Truths for Suffering People."

The goal is not to come up with a long list of truths (though they might); the goal is to use the precious promises of the Bible to comfort the reader. They are welcome to fancy up their pamphlet and make it as artsy as they like; what matters is that they consider at least a few truths that they think would be helpful and assuring to those experiencing difficulty.

Let them prepare and then share their pamphlets. Tell the students that today's lesson will show Jesus affirming several important truths during His suffering; these same truths will be blessings to us if we cling to them in our struggles.

TEACHING PLAN

Read Mark 14:32-36.

Throughout the Gospels, we read of Jesus' many great works and miracles. He healed the crowds, raised the dead, fed thousands, preached with authority, and confronted the religious elites. He also showed abundant compassion and even wept for those who would reject Him. But here in the garden of Gethsemane, we see the weight Jesus was carrying in the hours leading to His crucifixion. The knowledge of what was to come caused Him such distress that He collapsed.

- **What does this scene teach us about the humanity of Jesus? Why is it important to affirm Jesus' humanity?**

"Gethsemane" means "olive press." The name comes from the process where olives underwent intense pressure in order to extract an oily product into jars. On this particular night in Gethsemane, Jesus weathered His own emotional and physical pain.

"Abba" was an Aramaic term of endearment for a father. All His life, Jesus enjoyed an amazing relationship with God the Father. Yet in Gethsemane, Jesus experienced a unique suffering in His humanity because of what was to come. This shows us that Jesus was not immune to the emotions of humanity; but He never swayed in His love and devotion to the Father's plan either.

- **What does Jesus' commitment to the Father's plan teach us about Him?**

What was the cause of Jesus' distress? Jesus was facing more than just physical suffering and death on the cross. He was about to drink a "cup" that He did not want to drink. This cup, different from the cup in the Lord's Supper, was a metaphor for the wrath of God against all that is unholy and unrighteous—against all sin. Though He asked for the cup to pass from Him, no alternative existed, so Jesus, the God-man, submitted to His Father's will and resolved to obey His Father so that He might secure the salvation of sinners like you and me.

Read Mark 14:43-49.

Mark was careful to describe Judas, Jesus' betrayer, as one of the twelve disciples. This magnifies the horror of his sin—one of Jesus' handpicked followers chose to sell Him out to the religious leaders. Judas knew exactly where Jesus would be because he was one of the Twelve and Jesus retreated to this garden often (Luke 22:39).

To add insult to injury, Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss to His face, a sign of deep friendship and devotion. The soldiers with Judas would have had trouble seeing Jesus on the dark hillside during the evening hours, so a kiss from Judas would be the method of disclosure for the One they were to arrest. Both Peter and Paul encouraged the churches through their letters to greet each other with "a holy kiss" (Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 16:20; 2 Cor. 13:12; 1 Thess. 5:26; 1 Pet. 5:14).

- **What are some ways you have witnessed betrayal? How do people usually respond to betrayal?**

COMMENTARY

Main Point:
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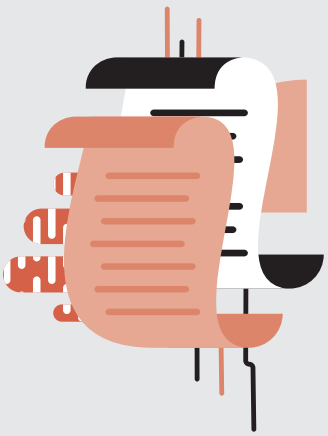
Mark 14

35. The "cup" metaphor for God's wrath finds its meaning in the writings of the Old Testament prophets and the Psalms. Ezekiel 23:33 speaks of "a cup of devastation and desolation" for Judah. Isaiah 51:17 speaks of "the cup of his fury … that causes people to stagger" for Jerusalem . Jeremiah 25:15 speaks of "this cup of the wine of wrath from my hand" for the nations . And Psalm 75:8 speaks of "a cup in the Lord's hand" that "all the wicked of the earth will drink." This picture from the Bible illustrates that every time we sin, it's a drop in the cup. Every time we fall short of God's glory, it's a drop in the cup of God's wrath against sin being stored up for the day of judgment.

The idea communicated in this passage is that the cup of God's wrath, which should be poured out for us to drink, is set in front of Jesus for Him to drink in our place. Faced with the staggering weight of God's wrath against sin, Jesus had tears in His eyes and on His face as He pleaded with the Father for another solution for our salvation. But Jesus the Messiah is the only One who could atone for the sins of His people. He is the only One who is truly God and truly human. So this dreadful cup of wrath was taken from our hands according to the will of Father and placed into the hands of Jesus, the Holy One of God, the Father's humble and obedient Son.



99 Essential Doctrines (p. 64, DDG)

God is Unchanging

God's being and attributes, along with the ethical commitments He has given, cannot change. This means, among other things, that God is committed to being God and that He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. God's unchanging nature is good news for Christians, for it guarantees that God does not change His mind or go back on His promises. Christians can find assurance and peace of mind in knowing that the God who brought them out of darkness into His marvelous light is the God who will carry them through into eternity.

TEACHING PLAN

Although He intended to surrender to them, Jesus still verbally protested the unjust actions of the mob, which had been sent by the religious leaders. Jesus had been preaching in the temple courts each day, but the leaders chose not to arrest Him there because Jesus was not guilty of anything. Rather than a warranted arrest, this was the preamble to a treacherous murder, so they surrounded Him at night in a garden, when few witnesses were around.

This arrest was unjust and wrong, but Jesus said it had to happen this way—the Scriptures must be fulfilled. Jesus had previously quoted Zechariah 13:7 to His disciples, saying they would fall away (Mark 14:27), and immediately after His arrest, they all deserted Him (v. 50). Jesus may also have been thinking of Isaiah 53:12, which says the Lord's Suffering Servant would submit Himself to death and be counted among the rebels while bearing the sins of others. And as Jesus pointed out in the Supper just a few hours prior to these events, He would be betrayed by one who shared in eating His bread (Mark 14:17-21); the prophecy of Psalm 41:9 was fulfilled in Judas's actions.

Although Jesus was betrayed, arrested, and abandoned by the will of men, this was all a part of God's sovereign plan for the salvation of sinners. Therefore, Jesus remained calm, in control, and confident in the Father as His world was turning against Him.

- **Why do the promises of God in Scripture have the ability to ground us during times of emotional crisis?**

Read Mark 14:53,60-64.

What followed Jesus' unjust arrest was a travesty of a trial, including false accusations and false testimony (Mark 14:55-59). This was not a court looking for the truth but a charade searching for the means to justify their intention to murder Jesus. Yet Jesus remained silent; He refused to dignify the lies leveled against Him.

False accusations could not get a response out of Jesus, but a straightforward question about His identity did. If Jesus falsely denied He were the Messiah and Son of God or chose to remain silent once more, then He might have been allowed to go free. But Jesus answered affirmatively and clearly, effectively sealing His fate of crucifixion. Though He is the rightful Ruler and Judge over all the earth, Jesus allowed Himself to be judged by sinful, deceitful human beings because His time to die had come.

Up until this moment, Jesus often concealed His true identity. Even when the disciples confessed Him to be the Messiah, He charged them to keep that knowledge to themselves (Mark 8:29-30). So why publicly reveal His identity as the Messiah now? Because the hour had come. Jesus knew His response would secure His execution, through which He would drink the cup of God's wrath in our place, according to the Father's plan.

- **What are some occasions in our own lives in which we can follow in Jesus' example and show restraint even when we are persecuted or treated unfairly for our faith?**

COMMENTARY

Main Point:
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Mark 14

47. The Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—keep the identity of the swordsman a secret, perhaps because the culprit was still alive and didn't need treason and attempted murder added to the charge of preaching the gospel. By the time John wrote his Gospel, Peter had probably already been martyred, so he felt free to share the name of the guilty party (John 18:10). It should be no surprise that the One who would soon die for His enemies (Rom. 5:8) would show compassion on this injured adversary, demonstrated when He touched the man and healed the severed ear (Luke 22:51).

48. No one could take Jesus' life from Him. He had made that clear before (John 10:18). If He wanted to retreat, He could pass through the midst of a crowd (Luke 4:30). If He wanted to fight, He could call down 12 legions of angels (Matt. 26:53). Anyone who can calm a storm, walk on water, and cast out demons can control a little crowd. But rather than demonstrate control through lightning or fire, Jesus exercised the self-control of restraint.

62. By equating Himself with the Son of Man from Daniel 7:13-14 and referring to His descent from heaven, Jesus doubled down on the charge of blasphemy in the eyes of the Sanhedrin. At this point there was no mistake to be made. He was either blasphemous or blessed. He was the Christ or guilty of the charge of idolatry. To the leaders, the conclusion was obvious. With these words, Jesus sealed His fate and set the stage upon which He would lay down His own life. What had begun in the garden in darkness would soon be finished in the light of day on Golgotha.

Activity

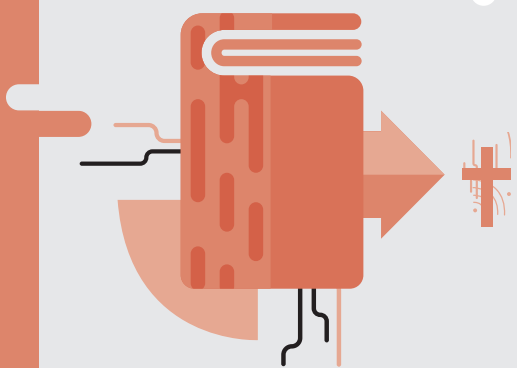
Have your students come up with a list of settings and scenarios. Keep your list on a whiteboard. Settings could include the school cafeteria, the school bus, an online gaming session, etc. Scenarios could be just acing a test, just losing a game, a really difficult practice, a school dance, etc.

Once you have your list, split your students into several small groups. Have each group pick a setting or a scenario. They should then create a skit with two scenes. Each scene will take place in that setting or in that scenario. In the first scene, they should give an example of how we would sinfully model Adam's rebellion (e.g., expressing irritation at parents). In the second scene, they should give an example of how we can model Jesus' affirmation in that setting or scenario (e.g., being gracious to our opponents).

Let them prepare and show their skits; then debrief what was especially good about them. How can we affirm God's providence in our lives this week, whether in good circumstances or bad?

(p. 66, DDG) Christ Connection

In the garden of Eden, Adam failed to resist the serpent and chose instead to follow His way over God's. In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus, the second Adam, submitted fully to His Father's purpose and plan and willingly submitted to death upon the cross. Jesus demonstrated His identity as the Son of God through both His words and actions when He was betrayed, arrested, and put on trial.



JESUS IS ARRESTED

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JESUS CONNECTION

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LIFEWISE QUALITY

SUBMISSION – Choosing to be under the authority of others.

HEAD

Describe Jesus' emotions as He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Jesus asked God to "take this cup away from Me" because He didn't want to go through the pain of the cross. How did Jesus show He was still willing to follow God's plan even though it was hard?

HEART

Jesus submitted completely to God's plan to save us through His death on the cross because He trusted the Father completely. How might knowing God's character and trusting His goodness help you submit to God the same way?

Because Jesus did not demand His own way and was willing to die on the cross, we can be saved. How might demanding our own way to protect ourselves actually hurt or cause problems for other people?

HANDS

Submitting is hard for us because we don't want to be forced to do things that are uncomfortable or that go against our own desires and opinions. Write at least one way you could respectfully submit to those in authority in the following situations:

- Your teacher asks the class to get quiet, but you're finishing an important conversation with a friend.
- Your friend invites you to a birthday party and sleepover, but you're the only one who's not allowed to spend the night.
- While you are at the park with friends, they start riding their bikes through the splash pad even though the rules state this isn't allowed.